

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00203 081651Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 081600Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5381

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJ: DUBLIN WORRIED ABOUT IMPACT OF ELECTIONS ON NI ASSEMBLY

1. OVER PAST FEW DAYS IN CONTACTS WITH GOI, WE HAVE DISCUSSED IMPACT OF LOOMING BRITISH ELECTIONS ON IRISH SCENE. APPEARS TO US THAT LEADING WORRY HERE IS OVER IMPACT OF ELECTIONS ON SHAKY NEW NI ASSEMBLY. GOI FEARS THAT ALL THREE ASSEMBLY PARTIES ARE AT LOW POINT IN POPULARITY (DUBLIN 198) AND MAY REMAIN SO UNTIL ASSEMBLY HAS BEGUN TO PRODUCE RESULTS. THUS, BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANTS EXTREMES MAY DO BETTER IN ELECTIONS NOW THAN THEY WOULD A YEAR OR SO HENCE.

2. AS MINOR EXAMPLE OF THIS PROBLEM, LOCAL PROVOS ARE HINTING THAT THEY MAY RUN DOLOURS PRICE FOR WESTMINISTER SEAT. SHE IS BEST KNOWN OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS NOW IN ENGLISH JAILS, AND HER CANDIDACY WOULD BE IN LINE WITH OLD IRA TRADITIONS. GOI, HOWEVER, APPEARS EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT FROM LOYALISTS. ON POSITIVE SIDE, GOOD SOURCE TOLD US THAT GOI EXPECTS FAULKNER UNIONISTS AND SDLP TO COORDINATE ELECTORAL STRATEGY CAREFULLY IN AREAS OF HIGHEST LOYALIST AND REPUBLICAN STRENGTH. THUS, ASSEMBLY UNIONISTS MIGHT ENTER A CANDIDATE TO SPLIT LOYALIST VOTE AND THROW SEAT TO SDLP. FOR ITS PART, SDLP MIGHT BE WILLING

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00203 081651Z

SPLIT VOTE OF TWO EXTREME REPUBLICANS, FRANK MCMANUS AND BERNADETTE

DEVLIN MCALISKEY. DESPITE SUCH TACTICS, HOWEVER, DUBLIN FEARS THAT LOYALISTS WILL WIN TOO MANY SEATS FOR GOOD OF NI ASSEMBLY.

3. GOI IS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH POSSIBILITY THAT BRITISH ELECTIONS WILL DELAY CONVENING OF FINAL, FORMAL STAGE OF TRIPARTITE (SUNNINGDALE) TALKS. THIS APPEARS TO BE SECONDARY PROBLEM, HOWEVER.
MOORE

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